

This week marks the 2-year anniversary of President Obama's health care overhaul law, and it's clearer than ever that this law is not the health care solution Americans need. During the debate in Congress two years ago, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi dismissively brushed aside questions about whether the plan was constitutional, but the Supreme Court has made it clear that it does take this question seriously and is preparing to devote a nearly-unprecedented six hours next week to hearing arguments on a challenge to the law. Meanwhile, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently updated their estimates of the cost of the health overhaul and found that the so-called "Affordable Care Act," far from living up to its name, will actually [cost](#) a mind-boggling \$1.8 trillion over the next decade. That number equates to more than \$15,000 for every family in America. Contrary to the President's repeated promise that "if you like the coverage you have, you can keep it," CBO also [estimated](#) that at least 3 to 5 million – and possibly as many as 20 million – Americans will lose their health plan because many employers will choose to discontinue their health benefits entirely rather than complying with expensive new mandates and regulations.

The President's health care overhaul also included a half-trillion dollars in cuts to Medicare – money that was earmarked for a new entitlement program instead of being used to shore up Medicare's own precarious finances. If allowed to take effect, these cuts will lead to the end of Medicare as we know it today, with seniors and people with disabilities unable to get access to the care they need because many doctors and other health providers will be forced out of the program. Today, the House of Representatives voted to [repeal one of the most troubling provisions of President Obama's health law](#), the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). This board will consist of 15 unelected bureaucrats who will be authorized to make sweeping changes to Medicare coverage with no input from doctors and patients, no approval by Congress, and no judicial review. I believe there is a real danger that IPAB will disrupt the doctor-patient relationship and bring about *de facto* rationing of care, and I strongly support repealing it along with the rest of the thoroughly flawed health overhaul law.

Today's vote also disproves the claims made by some that House Republicans have no positive solutions for health care reform. In addition to repealing IPAB, the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act makes long-overdue reforms to medical liability laws to crack down on frivolous lawsuits, similar to the successful reforms adopted by the state of California 25 years ago. This is a proven solution that will actually bring down the cost of health care, unlike the President's \$1.8 trillion law. As chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, I will continue to advocate for this and other measures to achieve real health care savings for patients and taxpayers alike, as well as reforms to save and strengthen the Medicare program through choice and competition instead of cutting off access to care and putting bureaucrats in charge.

